3.9. HERITAGE

SCOPE OF THE ANALYSIS

Three broad levels of analyses have been performed to understand the significance and extent of heritage resources associated with the American and Crooked River Project. First, research into the greater history of the project area was conducted to understand the significant themes or events that have transpired in time and space. Secondly, a heritage resource survey was conducted for the project area to identify any existing cultural properties associated with these themes. Lastly, these properties were evaluated for their National Register status. The results and relevant rationale for each of these analyses are presented below.

HISTORY OF THE GREATER PROJECT AREA

Situated within the American and Crooked River Project area, are fragile remnants of significant cultural traditions. These vestiges confront us and reflect centuries-old relationships between people and their land. The project area's heritage resources hold clues to past ecosystems, add richness and depth to the landscape, provide links to living traditions, and help transform our understanding of who we are as a people.

To date, three principal historical themes have been identified for the greater American and Crooked River Project area consisting of American Indian use, mining settlement and technology, and public domain administrative history. These themes, or contexts, provide the basis for understanding the significance of heritage resources situated throughout the greater project area. It is the combination of these themes and their associated sites and features that provide an interpretive framework for defining the existing condition for heritage resources associated with the American and Crooked River Project area. A review of each theme and associated site known for the project area is described below.

AMERICAN INDIAN USE OF THE GREATER PROJECT AREA.

The American and Crooked River Project is located entirely within that area encompassing the 1855 Nez Perce Indian Reservation. The project area and surrounding environs were later ceded to the United States by the Nez Perce Tribe in 1863. The project area is also located near the headwaters of the South Fork Clearwater River, named Too-koo-pah by the local Nez Perce (Elsensohn 1971). Herbert Spinden (1908) notes the name of the Nez Perce band inhabiting the upper South Fork Clearwater River as the Saiksaikinpu, named after the word for "fireweed." In May 1861 a Nez Perce village, headed by the leader Cool-cool-snee-nee, was noted just downstream from the current location of Harpster by miners traveling to the upper reaches of the South Fork (Elsensohn 1978). However, Alice Fletcher's 1891 review of traditional village sites associated with the Nez Perce people show no semi-permanent encampments located along the upper reaches of the South Fork Clearwater River (Sappington et al. 1995).

Allan Marshall (1977) has used an ecological interpretive model based largely on plant food availability in reporting the economic strategies employed by bands of ethnographic Nez Perce such as the Saiksaikinpu Band. His model is useful to landscape analysis in that is identifies the cumulative uses of a watershed at the landscape level over a given year by ethnographic Nez Perce. Marshall combined physiographic and climatic data in producing four zones of plant food availability. Table 3.82 shows this relationship.

Table 3.82: Timing and availability of plant foods in Nez Perce territory

Zone	Indicator Species	Timing/Scheduling	Resources Available
1	Scattered sagebrush (gray rabbitbrush shrubs)	Early production of vegetable foods (April), ending in May or June.	Twelve vegetable plants.
2	Mesic shrub species (snowberry, Rosa sp., and ninebark)	Begins in early summer; dormant in winter.	Nineteen plant foods. (plateaus and foothills).
3	Oregon boxwood	Production occurs in late summer.	Nineteen plant foods. (plateaus and foothills).
4	Fireberry and huckleberries	Production occurs in late summer.	6 resources appear in late summer.

By following seasonally available plant foods, the Nez Perce were able to secure at least 35 different plant foods for up to seven months out of the year from drainages like the greater South Fork Clearwater River. The storage of these plant resources in addition to serviceberry, huckleberry and fireberry, generally rounded out the botanical menu of the Nez Perce.

Marshall reports the three most utilized salmonids by the Nez Perce were silver salmon (Coho), blueback (sockeye), and Chinook. Sockeye reportedly did not ascend the South Fork Clearwater River, while Coho may have although their historical presence has not been well documented (personal communication, Katherine Thompson). Chinook salmon ascended the South Fork Clearwater River to spawn in tributaries such as Newsome Creek, Red River, American River and Crooked River (personal communication, Wayne Paradis). Lamprey eel, sea-run sucker, whitefish, chiselmouth, sucker, and trout were also utilized by the Nez Perce.

Marshall further reports the Nez Perce hunted elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, mountain sheep, mountain goat and moose; of which elk, mule deer, and whitetail deer were most important. Bison and antelope were also hunted on the open plains. Hunting activity was most prominent in the late summer. Hunting strategies generally involved ascending one ridge system into the mountains, while following another ridge system out. Camps along these routes were generally six to ten miles apart and located at the heads of drainage basins.

The Southern Nez Perce Trail, one of several routes used by the Tribe to travel to and from the Plains, traversed through the general project area. Campsites along this greater trail corridor may be expected, however, to date no archaeological remains of these or other American Indian affiliated sites or features have been located within the specific confines of the project area associated with the American and Crooked River Project.

MINING SETTLEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE GREATER PROJECT AREA.

In 1861 placer gold was discovered near Elk City following initial discoveries in other locales in north-central Idaho the year before. Kathryn McKay (1998:15) notes the development of placer mining in the region occurred in three stages:

1. Initial rush characterized by the high grading of gravels using rockers, long toms, and sluice boxes. Rockers were used almost exclusively in 1861 and 1862, followed by sluices in 1863 (see Figure 3.3) once ditches had been constructed (McKay 1998:25, 29)
2. Hydraulic giants, ditches and sluice boxes for working hillside gravels (see Figure 3.4)
3. Large mechanical equipment such as dredges and drag lines for processing low grade gravels (see Figure 3.5)

Sister M. Alfreda Elsensohn (1978:157-180) and McKay (1998:23-41) provide an adequate review of the upper South Fork placer mining history and is summarized below.

In 1861, shot gold was reported to be found at a rate of $.25 a pan near Elk City (local rate for gold at the time was $16 an ounce). The greater area was organized into the Union District (in relation to the great conflict gripping the United States) and quickly reached its zenith in 1862 when nearly $1-million in gold dust was shipped from the District. That year also marked the beginning of the end, as mineral discoveries elsewhere in the Washington Territory dislodged miners from the District (the area was technically off-limits to uninvited non-Indians by the Treaty of 1855). The District continued fairly profitable placer results until approximately 1872. Mining ditches continued the success of some placer efforts thereafter. Large ditches such as the American River and Elk Creek ditches were notable early undertakings and supplied water to areas as far away as the Buffalo Hump mines. Located in mountainous terrain, these ditches were built at a grade of 16'-20' per mile by men with hand tools or horse teams. Smaller ditches referred to as races often brought water from the main ditch to individual claims. Ditches were surveyed and constructed by both small groups and large companies. Sold by the "miner's inch," the water was "measured in a small flume with a headgate under a six-inch pressure, at an agreed rate per inch per day" (Hailey 1910:170). A miner's inch generally equaled 11.25 gallons per minute. Ditches generally required large capital to construct. In 1863-1864, a hand excavated 9-mile ditch with flumes in the vicinity of Elk City cost $3,400 per mile.

Figure 3.3. Sluice box and miner at work in north-central Idaho

Figure 3.4. Hydraulic operations in progress at the Orogrande-Frisco mine

Chinese miners first came to the Elk City area in 1865 and the vicinity had largely become a Chinese mining camp by the early 1880s, as only eleven EuroAmerican miners were reportedly left in the District. In 1885, the Elk City area reported about 500 Chinese. Chinese miners continued to work the placer deposits and make profits where others had given up or failed. It is estimated that 50 percent of all mining ditches in central Idaho were constructed by Chinese efforts. By 1889, the number of Chinese miners were on the decline as the First Judicial District of the Territory of Idaho ruled aliens could not possess mining claims under U.S. mining laws. By 1890, only 35 Chinese remained in Elk City.

Concerning the activities of the initial placer miners relative to the purpose and need associated with the American and Crooked River Project, an 1898-1899 United States Geographical Survey report notes the project area then showed…

"…the results of ancient fires. About 80 per cent of it is covered with lodgepole pine, the growth of which is directly traceable to the effects of fires that ravaged the section a century or more

ago…The early settlers, or rather prospectors that discovered the Elk City placers in 1860 and 1861, did not spare the lodgepole pine growth that they found covering the country, but fired it in many places…" (Elsensohn 1971:13).

Hydraulic mining generally followed by a few years the initial discovery of placer gold in various Districts. It required steep terrain to build water pressure and dispose of waste, as well as large amounts of water and capital. Water under pressure flowed through penstocks and was diverted through a nozzle referred to as a hydraulic giant or monitor. Ditches were often constructed to steady or brace smaller pipes extending from the penstock. These smaller pipes or hoses were used in place of the monitor prior to its inception in 1869-1870. Water under pressure was applied to the base of slopes thus resulting in their erosion or collapse. The resulting burden was then washed through sluices to extract gold. Extensive hydraulic workings were under way in Idaho County during the 1890s, and specifically within the Orogrande area in the early 1900s. In 1894 the American Hill and Buffalo Hill hydraulic operations were in progress near Elk City. Both operations employed over twenty men per 10-hour shift. Two shifts per day were worked at each locale given the need for large production during the high water seasons. Leggett Creek (just west of the project area) also had a hydraulic operation as of 1903 operated by Tom and Jim Surrage.

Figure 3.5. Dredge processing low-grade placer gravels on the Crooked River about 1938 (From Elsensohn 1971:48-7)

Dredges were also employed in and around the project area to work low-grade gravels, or in areas too flat for other forms of processing. A sample of dredge workings of the greater project area and dates of operations are provided by Elsensohn (1971:30-35) and McKay (1998:99), and shown in Table 3.83.

Table 3.83: A sample of dredging locations near the American and Crooked River Project Area, and their dates of operations

Red River	Transported to site by 13 teams of horses in 1899
Little Elk Creek	1909
Elk Creek/American River Confluence	1909
French Gulch	Long since completed by 1922
Deadwood Gulch	1936
Santiam Creek confluence	1937
Nugget Creek	Post 1938
Beaver Creek	1938
American River	1938
Crooked River	1938

The greater Elk City vicinity saw a second rush of miners in the mid-1880s with the advent of quartz mining (only a few quartz lodes were developed during the initial 1860s excitement). The first quartz location near Elk City was the Buster mine, initially claimed in 1870, but not worked until 1902 following the construction of the American Eagle mill. The Badger mine in the Orogrande

locality began work in 1896, and the Hogan Mine (later the Orogrande-Frisco mine) was worked in 1902 at which time a twenty-stamp mill was constructed at the mine (see Figure 3.4). The financial panic of 1893 slowed both quartz and placer mining for two years (McKay 1998). McKay (1998:58) further notes:

> "…beginning in 1895 placer and lode mining again became active. Quartz mining in Idaho County declined after 1909, reaching its low in 1920. From then until 1932 there was very little quartz mining activity in the county. Development was hampered by poor transportation (preventing the development of the large low-grade deposits), the short operation season, the small size of the high-grade veins, and incompetent management. None of the lode mines in north-central Idaho were very extensive, and none reached a depth of more than a few hundred feet. By far the most common method of ore treatment was crushing in stamp mills followed by plate amalgamation, resulting in the recovery of only about 60 percent of the gold in the ore…During the Depression of the 1930s, because of higher gold prices and improved road systems, lode mining in Idaho County experienced a revival. Most of the small veins were owner-operated at that time because the veins generally were not rich enough to support the overhead necessary for company operations. "

Exceptions to this last statement did occur, however. The Gnome Gold Mining Company built a sawmill in the Orogrande locality in 1932. The Orogrande-Frisco mine resumed operations in 1933 and built a 500-ton cyanide mill. The Clearwater Concentration Company also constructed a 60-ton mill at the mouth of the Crooked River in the late 1930s. The Orogrande-Frisco mine was reported to be the largest open-pit mine in Idaho, and in 1938 was the largest operating cyanide-process mill in the Northwest (McKay 1998).

PUBLIC DOMAIN ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE GREATER PROJECT AREA.

In 1897 President Grover Cleveland added the 4.1 million acre Bitterroot Forest Reserve to the existing reserve system. Administered by the General Land Office of the Department of the Interior, this new Reserve immediately became the target of critics who worked to reduce its size or eliminate its existence, owing to the perceived mineral wealth of the region (Baird 1999). These efforts were partly successful, in 1904 the Elk City township and areas in the Buffalo Hump country were withdrawn from public domain. The remainder of the Reserve, however, continued under federal management and starting in 1905, was administered by the Department of Agriculture after the creation of the Forest Service that year. In 1907, public domain encompassing the greater project area became part of the Bitterroot National Forest, and in 1908 became part of the newly created Nez Perce National Forest, which it remains today.

The development, administration and utilization of these federal lands continued as timber, mining and recreation all became important activities during the early 20th century. Slowly, transportation routes, communication lines and structural improvements were made to better manage these functions. Work relief programs of the 1930s supported these endeavors. The Civilian Conservation Corps, for example, contributed largely to the cultural landscape of the greater project area, the results of which are still present today in the form of roads, trails, guard stations, fire lookouts etc.

Table 3.84: Historical classification & chronology of land encompassing the American and Crooked River Project

Pre 1848	Indian Title
1848-1855	Indian Title, also included within the Oregon Territory of 1848
1855-1859	Included within the 1855 Nez Perce Indian Reservation
1859-1863	Still located within the 1855 Reservation, but then part of the newly formed Washington Territory
1863-1890	Included within the newly created Idaho Territory (no longer part of the Nez Perce Reservation following its size reduction associated with the Treaty of 1863)
1890-1897	Located within the newly formed state of Idaho
1897-1907	Part of the Bitterroot Forest Reserve of Idaho
1907-1908	Part of the Bitterroot National Forest
1908-present	Included within the Nez Perce National Forest

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Federal Government to preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage. To accomplish this, federal agencies utilize the Section 106 process associated with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Passed by Congress three years before NEPA, the NHPA sets forth a framework for identifying and evaluating historic properties, and assessing effects to these properties. This process has been codified in 36 CFR 800 Subpart B. The coordination or linkage between the Section 106 process of the NHPA and the mandate to preserve our national heritage under NEPA is well understood, and is formally established in 36 CFR 800.3b and 800.8. The terminology of "…important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage" found in NEPA includes those resources defined as "historic properties" under the NHPA (36 CFR 800.16(l)(1)). It is thus the Section 106 process agencies utilize to consider, manage and protect historic properties during the planning and implementation stages of federal projects. Locally, the Nez Perce National Forest uses a programmatic agreement (PA) signed between Region-1 of the USFS, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to implement the Section 106 process.

The key components of the Section 106 process generally include:

- Determining the area of potential effects (APE)
- Identification efforts to locate historic properties within the APE
- Evaluating located properties for their National Register significance
- Assessing project effects to National Register eligible properties
- Resolving adverse effects (if any) to National Register eligible properties in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Tribes as needed to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties

The below discussion outlines the steps taken by the Nez Perce National Forest to comply with the above steps of the Section 106 process, as related to the American and Crooked River Project.

DETERMINING THE AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS (APE).

The APE is defined in 36 CFR 800.16d as the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties. Given the general extent and range of activities proposed within the five alternatives associated with the American-Crooked River Project, in addition to the type of historic properties known for the project area, the APE associated with the current project is generally viewed as those specific areas scheduled to receive direct ground disturbance activities as a result of implementing any one of the five alternatives.

IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS TO LOCATE HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITHIN THE APE.

Cultural resource surveys meant to locate historic properties within the APE are based on the *Site Identification Strategy for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests (SIS).* To date, 681 acres have been surveyed for cultural resources. Approximately 250 acres remain to be surveyed. All cultural resource identification work and results will be reported to the State Historic Preservation Office for concurrence prior to the signing of the Record of Decision for this project.

To date, 17 cultural properties have been identified within the APE and are described below.

NZ-5-94. Mining camp located near Relief Creek.

NZ-5-95. Faint trail with no known historical association located just off the 443 Road. Trail does not show on any Nez Perce National Forest map dating between 1911 and 1942.

NZ-5-96. A mining ditch in the vicinity of Queen Creek.

NZ-5-97. A location of mining prospects consisting of three trenches and eight pits situated between Silver and Quartz Creeks.

NZ-5-98. A cluster of 30 prospect pits situated between Silver and Quartz Creeks.

NZ-5-99. A cluster of 13 prospect pits situated between Silver and Quartz Creeks.

NZ-5-100. Faint trail with no known historical association located near Silver Creek. Trail does not show on any Nez Perce National Forest map dating between 1911 and 1942.

NZ-5-101. Historic Forest Service administrative trail dating to 1931 near Flint Creek.

NZ-5-103. *HISTORIC FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE TRAIL DATING TO 1935 NEAR RED HORSE CREEK.*

NZ-5-104. An apparent camp near Moose Butte, adjacent to an artificial clearing with several historic cans. The location may be that of an historic fire suppression event.

NZ-5-105. Historic Forest Service administrative trail dating to 1931 near Silver Creek.

NZ-5-106. An extensive mining ditch located near Haystack Mountain. The ditch has numerous features along it length consisting of prospect pits and possible areas of hydraulic mining.

NZ-5-107. An extensive mining ditch located near Kirks Fork. The ditch has numerous features along it length consisting of flume remnants and possible camp locations.

NZ-5-108. Heavily disturbed and discontinuous mining ditch located near the East Fork of Relief Creek.

10-IH-923. Mining camp located near Orogrande.

10-IH-926. Mining camp located near Orogrande.

10-IH-1718. Mining camp located near Relief Creek

EVALUATING LOCATED PROPERTIES FOR THEIR NATIONAL REGISTER SIGNIFICANCE.

The above 17 properties were evaluated against the National Register Criteria presented below.

CRITERIA FOR NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY.

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and:

(a) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

(b) That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

(c) That embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

(d) That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

As a result of this evaluation process, seven properties were determined eligible for the National Register (see Table 3.85).

Table 3.85: List of cultural properties within the American and Crooked River Project APE

*Site Number	Site Type	Significance	Criteria/Justification
NZ-5-94	Mining Site	Eligible	(a)
NZ-5-95	Trail	Not Eligible	Recordation has exhausted its research potential
NZ-5-96	Mining Ditch	Eligible	(a) and (c)
NZ-5-97	Exploratory Ditch and Prospects	Not Eligible	Recordation has exhausted its research potential
NZ-5-98	Mining Prospects	Not Eligible	Recordation has exhausted its research potential
NZ-5-99	Mining Prospects	Not Eligible	Recordation has exhausted its research potential
NZ-5-100	Trail	Not Eligible	Recordation has exhausted its research potential
NZ-5-101	Trail	Not Eligible	Recordation has exhausted its research potential
NZ-5-103	Trail	Not Eligible	Recordation has exhausted its research potential
NZ-5-104	Camp	Not Eligible	Recordation has exhausted its research potential
NZ-5-105	Trail	Not Eligible	Recordation has exhausted its research potential
NZ-5-106	Mining Ditch	Eligible	(a) and (c)
NZ-5-107	Kirks Fork Mining Ditch	Eligible	(a) and (c)
NZ-5-108	Mining Ditch	Not Eligible	Lack of integrity
10-IH-923	Mining Structures	Eligible	(a)
10-IH-926	Mining Structure	Eligible	(a)
10-IH-1718	Chinese Mining Site	Eligible	(a)

*The specific location of these properties is not available for public disclosure (36 CFR 296.18).

ASSESSING PROJECT EFFECTS (IF ANY) TO NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES.

All seven historic properties determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places have been identified on the ground. Project activities and/or their associated boundaries in the vicinity of these seven properties will be modified, as appropriate, to assure the avoidance of these historic properties. As a result, the agency has made a "no adverse effect" finding concerning historic properties and the American Crooked River Project per Stipulation V(d)(1) of the PA.

RESOLVING ADVERSE EFFECTS TO NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES.

No adverse effects to National Register eligible properties have been identified in conjunction with the implementation of the American and Crooked River Project.

FULL SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS FOR HERITAGE

To date, seven cultural properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places have been identified within, or immediately adjacent to, the American and Crooked River project, and will be protected from disturbance resulting from project activity (see Table 3.86). All seven of these properties are related to the historical theme of mining settlement and technology.

Table 3.86: List of cultural properties associated with the American and Crooked River project that have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

*Site Number	Site Type
NZ-5-94	Mining Site
NZ-5-96	Mining Ditch
NZ-5-106	Mining Ditch
NZ-5-107	Kirks Fork Mining Ditch
10-IH-923	Mining Structures
10-IH-926	Mining Structure
10-IH-1718	Chinese Mining Site

*The specific location of these properties is not available for public disclosure (36 CFR 296.18).